

DEPARTMENT: FIRE AND RESCUE

1. Departmental Mission Statement:

The mission of the City of Asheville Fire and Rescue Department is to protect the lives, property and environment of all people within Asheville by preventing the occurrence and minimizing the adverse effects of fires, accidents and all other emergencies. This mission will be accomplished with firefighter pride, preparedness and professionalism, with a focus on quality customer service and continuous improvement.

2. Divisional Activities:

Accountability/Administration: The Fire/Rescue Accountability and Administration Division is responsible for ensuring that our citizens and taxpayers are receiving the level and quality of fire and emergency services that they are paying for. This division encompasses the senior leadership of the department as well as the business office operations. Overall organizational management and leadership are focused in this division. Services include policy direction and development, problem resolution, comprehensive departmental human resource functions, long range and short term planning, payroll, purchasing, clerical and data processing and information management. Projects include all department capital improvements, contracts for specialized services, emergency service contracts and agreements, annexation service contracts, insurance rating programs, accreditation initiatives, performance measurement, organizational management and benchmarking, as well as being liaisons with neighboring fire and rescue departments, city government departments and divisions and other city, county, state and community based agencies and organizations.

Emergency Response: The Emergency Response Division is responsible for response to 911 emergency calls for service. This division responds to emergencies throughout the city and all contractual areas. This responsibility is shared by shift operations personnel as well as necessary support personnel. Emergency responses to fires, medical emergencies, technical rescue incidents, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters and other type emergencies are provided 7/24/365 through three distinct work shifts. The department operates eleven (11) fire and rescue stations with sixteen (16) response companies, responding to over 15,000 emergencies annually. In addition, hydrant maintenance, fleet maintenance and repair, pre-emergency incident surveys, emergency preparedness, all safety and training programs, recruit academy partnerships, firefighter certification and career development as well as all other direct support services are provided for in this division.

Fire Marshal's Office: The Fire Marshal's Office provides state mandated periodic fire inspections of all commercial properties within the city's jurisdiction. This division is responsible for ensuring that buildings and conditions meet minimum safety code requirements. Issuance of necessary permits and regulatory services are a function of this division. In addition, this division provides new construction plans review and new construction inspections. Fire scene investigation services and the city's fire investigation team are also a part of this division. Fire and injury prevention services, including child safety seats and public information, are also provided through this division to the public – especially for targeted groups such as children, the elderly and the business community.